Chapter 48

THE ROYAL TUTOR

Higasa Akai

Chapter 48

A Bright New Day

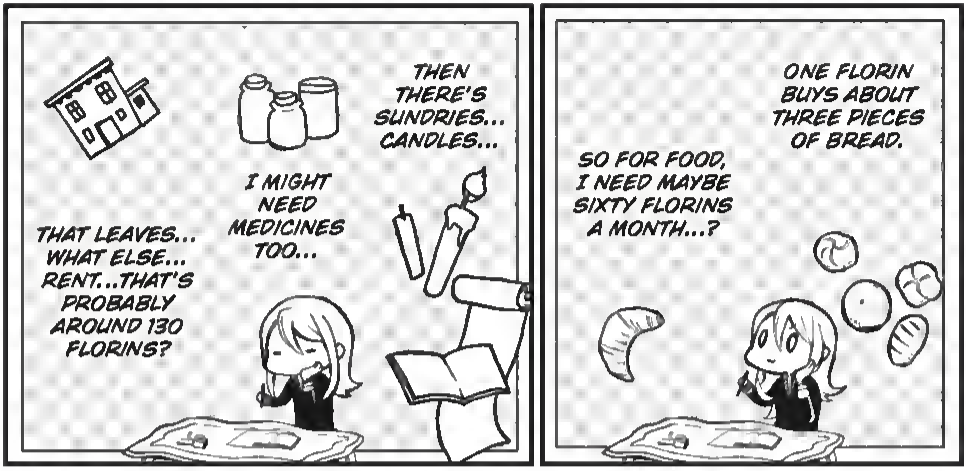
IT WOULD BE A BIG HELP IF YOU COULD SUBSIDIZE A PERCENT OF THE LIVING COSTS...
I EXPECT FINANCING A LIFE IN TOWN ENTIRELY ON YOUR OWN WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO MANAGE.
...I WOULD BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOUR HIGHNESS WITH ANYTHING, IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME.
NO, NO.
BUT I'LL PAY BACK EVERY FLORIN ONE DAY.
HUH? BUT—
WE HAVE CONCERNS THAT SOME-ONE MIGHT BREAK IN IF THE PROPERTY IS LEFT VACANT.
...RENT-FREE.
ALLOW ME TO PUT YOU UP IN ONE THAT IS VACANT...
MY FAMILY MANAGES A NUMBER OF PROPERTIES.

IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO RESIDE THERE AS THE CARE-TAKER OF THE PROPERY...
...WE WOULD NATURALLY PAY YOU A WAGE.
PLEASE USE THAT TO PAY YOUR EXPENSES.
THERE'S NO RISK FOR ME AT ALL...
I COULD MAKE A LIFE IN TOWN UNDER THESE TERMS...
.....
HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
—!
"THIS BUSINESS IS MY LIFE.
"I DIDN'T CHOOSE THIS PATH ONLY HALF-COMMITTED, YOU KNOW!"
—!

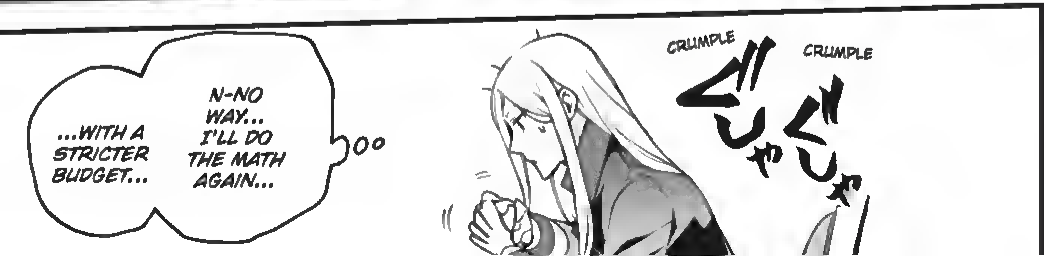
I TOLD YOU THAT I AM AN ALLY TO ALL OF YOU PRINCES, DIDN'T I?
PLEASE, YOU NEEDN'T HOLD BACK.
.....
OH DEAR.
I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR AID AFTER ALL.
NEVER MIND.
.....
BUT...
SINCE I'M THE ONE WHO CHOSE THIS...
...I HAVE TO SEE IT THROUGH BY MY OWN EFFORTS...!

BESIDES, IF YOU TOOK CARE OF EVERYTHING FOR ME...
...I'D PROBABLY FEEL OBLIGATED TO YOU FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
...AND I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA EITHER.
SORRY FOR BARGING IN ON YOU.
BYE.
HEH.
.....

IN THE 1700s, THE LACK OF A MALE HEIR CAUSED PROBLEMS WITH THE LINE OF SUCCESSION, LEAVING THE KINGDOM OF GRANZREICH UNSTABLE.
THE KINGDOMS OF FONSEIN AND MADRI LAUNCHED AN INVASION, CROSSING OVER THIS BORDER.....
I SAID I'D GET BY ON MY OWN...
...BUT I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT IT TAKES TO LIVE IN TOWN...
MONEY'S GOT TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO CONSIDER, RIGHT?
MY CURRENT WAGE IS 250 FLORINS.

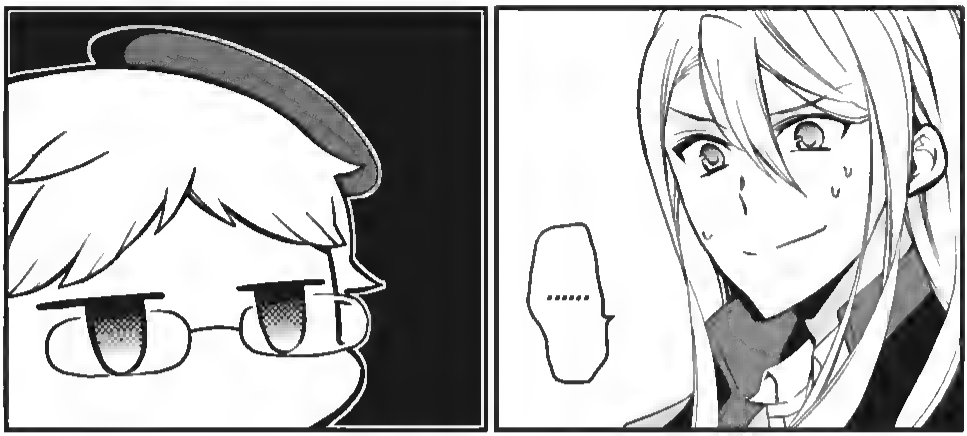

THAT LEAVES... WHAT ELSE... RENT...THAT'S PROBABLY AROUND 130 FLORINS?
I MIGHT NEED MEDICINES TOO...
THEN THERE'S SUNDRIES... CANDLES...
SO FOR FOOD, I NEED MAYBE SIXTY FLORINS A MONTH...?
ONE FLORIN BUYS ABOUT THREE PIECES OF BREAD.

25
60
30
40
-20
GEH!
IT TAKES THIS MUCH MONEY FOR A SINGLE PERSON TO LIVE...!!?
UWAAH! I'M IN THE RED!

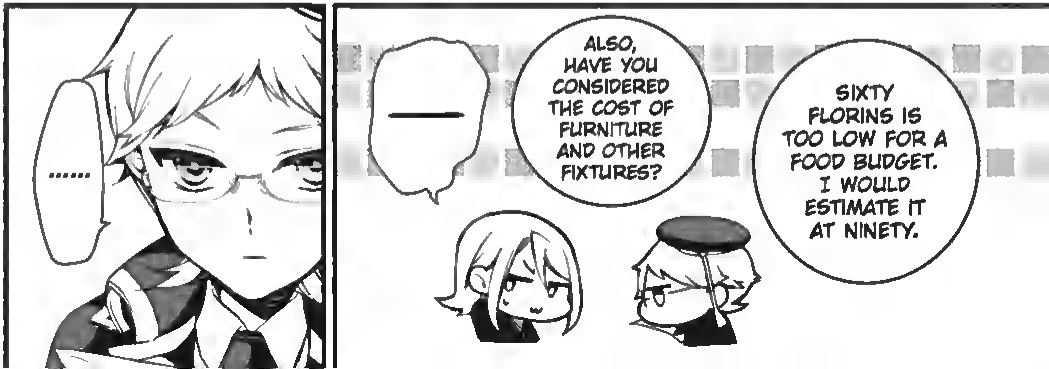

...WITH A STRICTER BUDGET...
N-NO WAY... I'LL DO THE MATH AGAIN...
CRUMPLE
CRUMPLE

UWAAAH!
ニゅっ
POP
PRINCE.
D-DON'T SNEAK UP ON ME LIKE THAT!
BADUM
ドキ
BADUM
ドキ
PRAY DO CONCENTRATE ON YOUR LESSON.
E-ERRM...
.....
.....
NOW, WHAT WERE YOU WRITING?

FLINCH
AH, YES. GETTING OUT OF THE PALACE...
...
YOU SAID IT...
Y-YEAH...
OUT FOR A STROLL.
...SOUNDS SPLENDID ON SUCH A SUNNY DAY, YES?
FLINCH
FLINCH
AH, YES. A PRINCE LEFT TO HIS OWN DEVICES...
WOW...
D... DID HE NOW?
YUM! YUM!
IT WAS PRINCE LEONHARD.
...GOBBLED UP THREE ENTIRE PLATES OF SACHER-TORTE.


.....

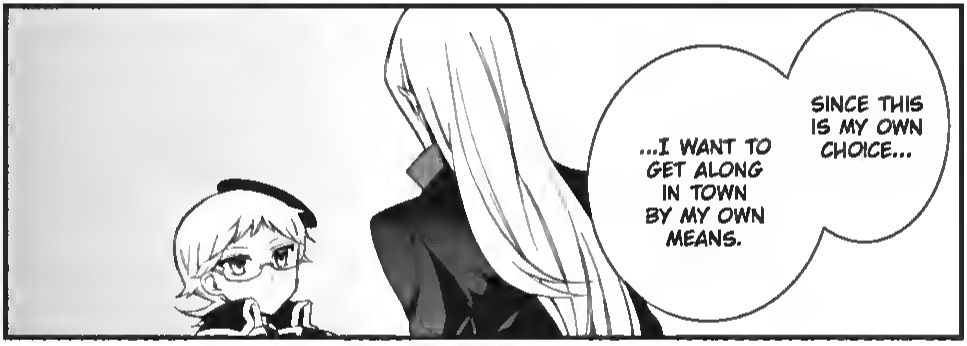
OH, COME ON! SO YOU DID SEE!!
SHALL I RECALCULATE IT FOR YOU?
...YOUR HIGHNESS, I DARE SAY THAT THE COSTS OF LIVING YIELD A HIGHER SUM THAN THAT.

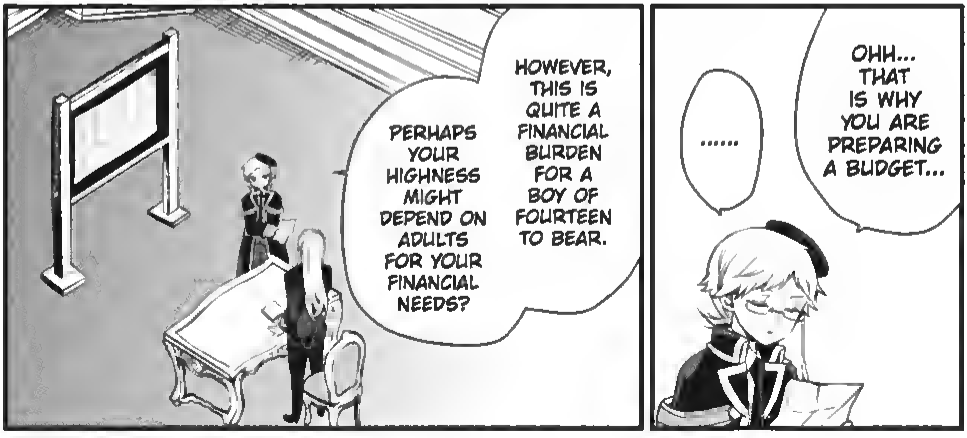

.....
—
ALSO, HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE COST OF FURNITURE AND OTHER FIXTURES?
SIXTY FLORINS IS TOO LOW FOR A FOOD BUDGET. I WOULD ESTIMATE IT AT NINETY.

...YOUR HIGH-NESS.
SURELY I'M MISTAKEN, BUT I MUST ASK...
DO YOU PLAN ON LEAVING THE PALACE AND LIVING IN TOWN?
HMPH!
HRMPH!
GEEZ, TEACH, IF YOU'RE GONNA SNAP AT ME, CAN YOU GET IT OVER WITH ALREADY?
I NEVER UNDERSTOOD DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR LIKE THIS...
AS ONE TASKED WITH GROOMING PRINCES FOR KINGSHIP, I HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ON THIS SUBJECT. HOWEVER...
.....
ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT THIS?

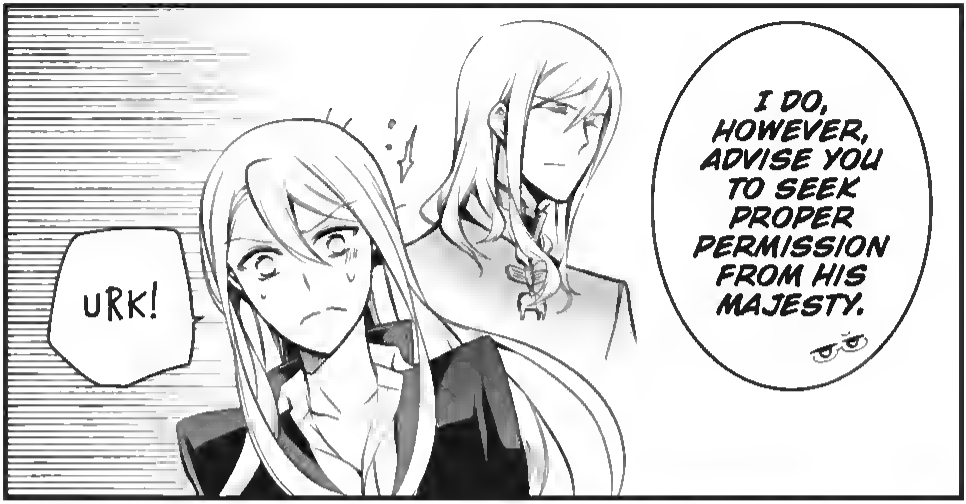
...RIGHT NOW, I FEEL MORE STRONGLY ABOUT HAVING A JOB I LOVE...
.....
...AND WORKING AT THE CAFÉ...
...THAN I DO ABOUT BECOMING KING, AT ANY RATE.
WITH THE MASTER OPENING A SECOND SHOP, I'LL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK MORE SHIFTS THAN EVER BEFORE.
BUT IF I'M TRAVELING TO WORK FROM THE PALACE...
...GIVEN THE DISTANCE AND OUR LESSONS BESIDES, MY TIME WILL BE LIMITED.

INSTEAD OF MOPING AROUND HERE IN THE PALACE LIKE I HAVE BEEN...
...I'D RATHER LIVE IN TOWN AND FULLY COMMIT MY TIME TO WHAT I WANT TO DO.


SINCE THIS IS MY OWN CHOICE...
...I WANT TO GET ALONG IN TOWN BY MY OWN MEANS.


HOWEVER, THIS IS QUITE A FINANCIAL BURDEN FOR A BOY OF FOURTEEN TO BEAR.
PERHAPS YOUR HIGHNESS MIGHT DEPEND ON ADULTS FOR YOUR FINANCIAL NEEDS?
OHH... THAT IS WHY YOU ARE PREPARING A BUDGET...
.....

I GUESS I REALLY WANT TO MAKE A GO OF SUPPORTING MYSELF.
.....
NO, NO. THE MASTER IS SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT RELYING ON ANYONE ELSE.
IF I WERE DEPENDENT ON SOMEONE... I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE PATH I'D WANT...
...I SEE.
IF YOU FEEL SO STRONGLY ABOUT THIS...
...THEN I WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE YOU TO CHANGE YOUR MIND.
TEACHER ...


I DO, HOWEVER, ADVISE YOU TO SEEK PROPER PERMISSION FROM HIS MAJESTY.
URK!

O-OF COURSE I WILL!
I WOULDN'T JUST UP AND LEAVE!
.....
THOUGH I'M SURE HE'LL BE AGAINST THE IDEA...

HMM...
IF YOU ARE TO PERSUADE HIS MAJESTY TO ALLOW YOU TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY, IT MAY BE EFFECTIVE TO SHOW HIM A PLAN SUCH AS THIS ONE.
HAHA...
ONCE YOU'VE ADJUSTED IT SO THAT IT NO LONGER GOES INTO THE RED, THAT IS.
ALSO, OUT OF CURIOSITY ...

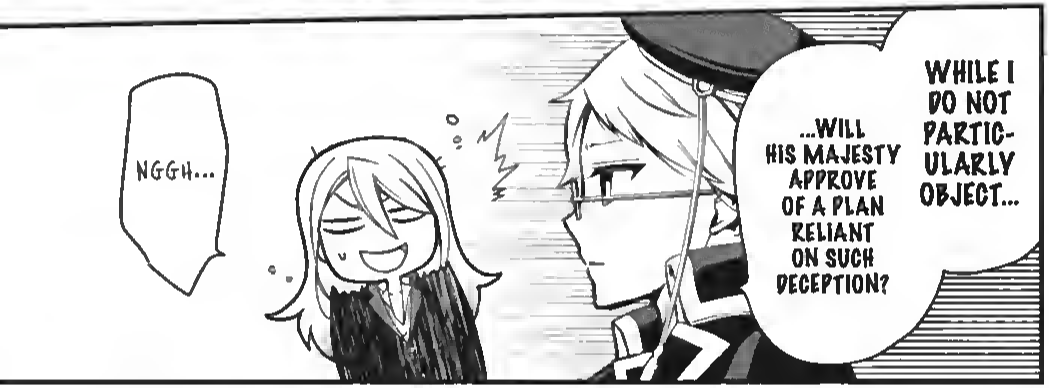
WHUH?
...HOW DOES YOUR HIGHNESS INTEND TO OBTAIN LODGING?

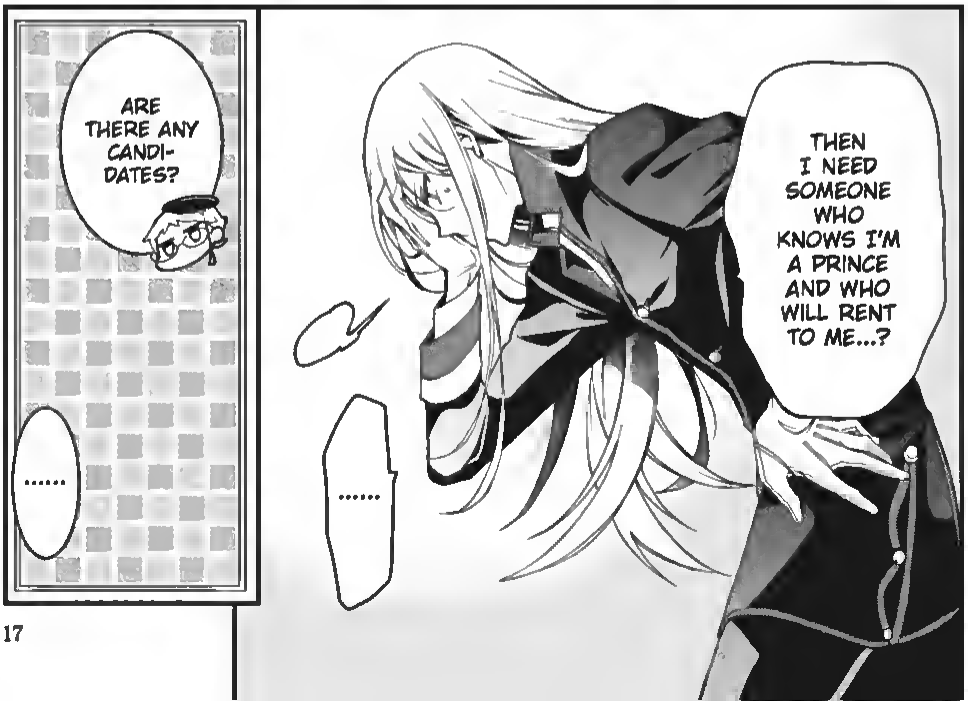
GOOD GRIEF...
SUCH A SHELTERED BOY...
HMPH.
AM I WRONG!?
...UH.
DON'T YOU JUST FIND A PLACE AND THEN PAY RENT?

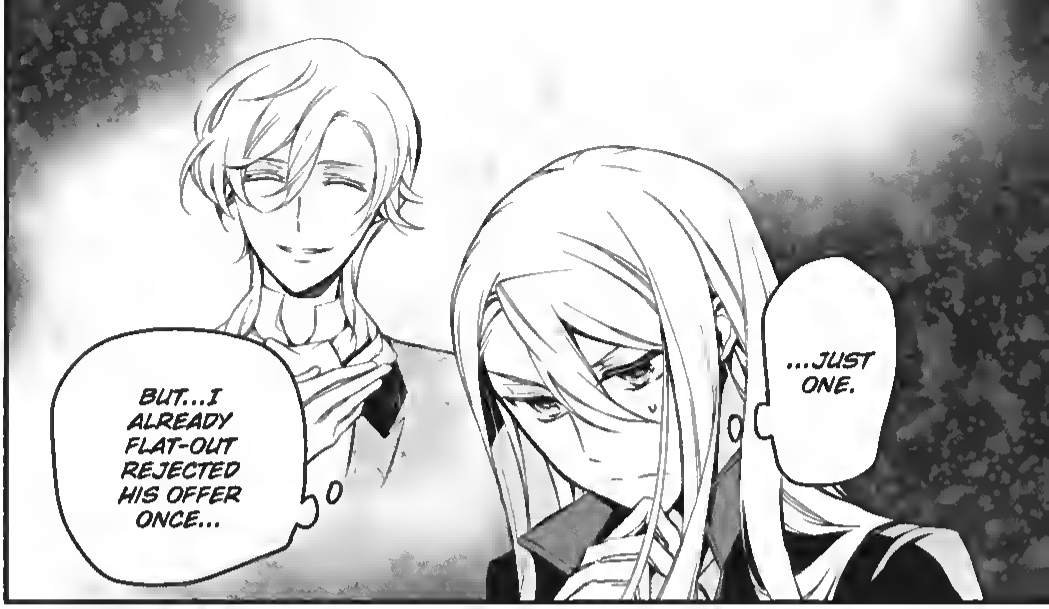
...SO YOU'RE SAYING, IF I HIDE THAT I'M A PRINCE...
...THEN I CAN'T RENT A ROOM...
THAT IS INDEED WHAT I AM SAYING.

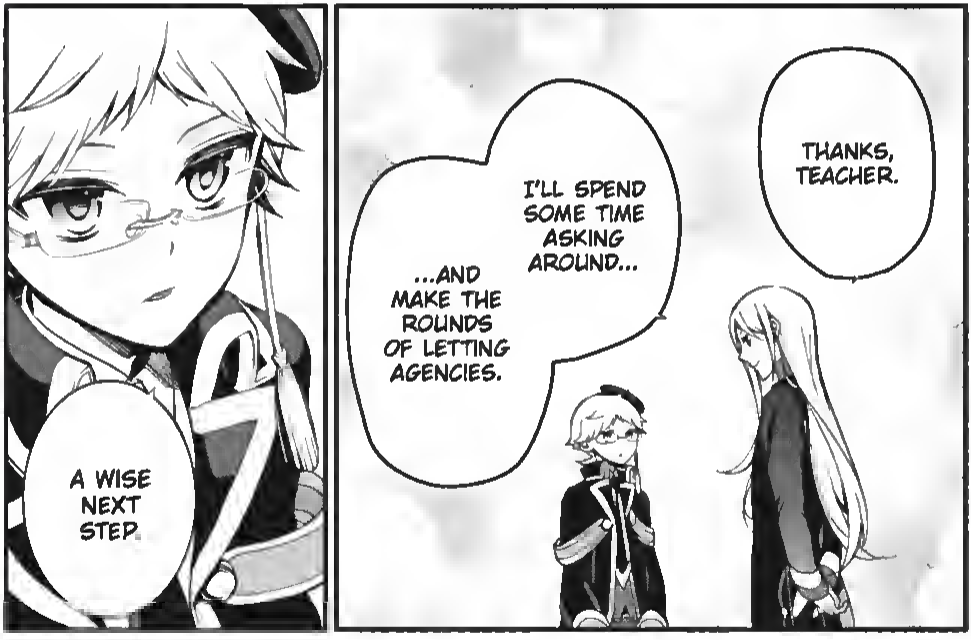
IN GRANZ-REICH, ONE CANNOT RENT A PROP-ERTY...
...WITHOUT VERIFI-CATION OF ONE'S IDENTITY.

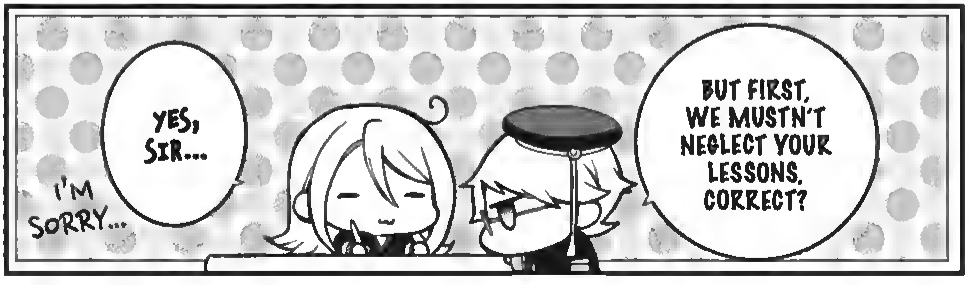
COME ON, WHY CAN'T I KEEP IT A SECRET?
I'VE GOT IT COVERED! "'WHO AM I?,' YOU ASK? WHY, JUST AN ORDINARY, HANDSOME WAITER." SEE?


WHILE I DO NOT PARTIC-ULARLY OBJECT...
...WILL HIS MAJESTY APPROVE OF A PLAN RELIANT ON SUCH DECEPTION?
NGGH...

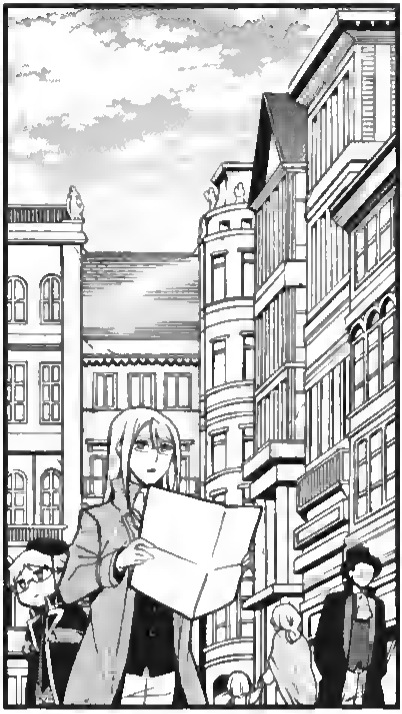

THEN I NEED SOMEONE WHO KNOWS I'M A PRINCE AND WHO WILL RENT TO ME...?
.....
ARE THERE ANY CANDI-DATES?
.....

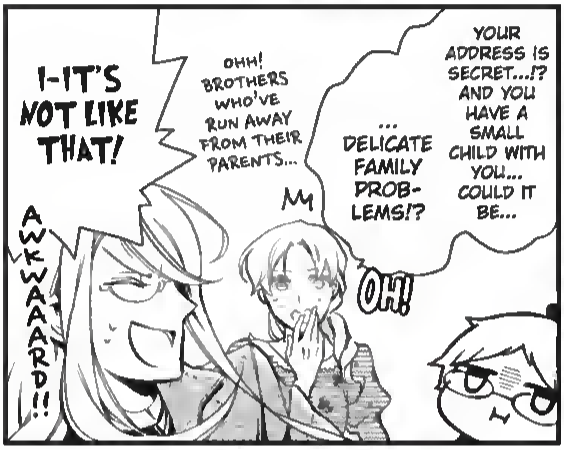

BUT...I ALREADY FLAT-OUT REJECTED HIS OFFER ONCE...
...JUST ONE.


A WISE NEXT STEP.
...AND MAKE THE ROUNDS OF LETTING AGENCIES.
I'LL SPEND SOME TIME ASKING AROUND...
THANKS, TEACHER.


I'M SORRY...
YES, SIR...
BUT FIRST, WE MUSTN'T NEGLECT YOUR LESSONS, CORRECT?

YOU CAN'T REVEAL WHO YOU ARE...?
WHY NOT?
.....
UHH...




YOUR ADDRESS IS SECRET...!? AND YOU HAVE A SMALL CHILD WITH YOU... COULD IT BE...
... DELICATE FAMILY PROB-LEMS!?
OHH! BROTHERS WHO'VE RUN AWAY FROM THEIR PARENTS...
I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
AWKWAARD!!
OH!

MASTER... YOU KNOW HOW YOU LIVE ABOVE THE CAFÉ?
LET ME LIVE THERE TOOOO...
I'LL PAY YOU RENT...

WAIT, I'M STORING THINGS UP THERE FOR THE SECOND SHOP. THERE'S NO SPACE.
SORRY!
AH!
SLUMP

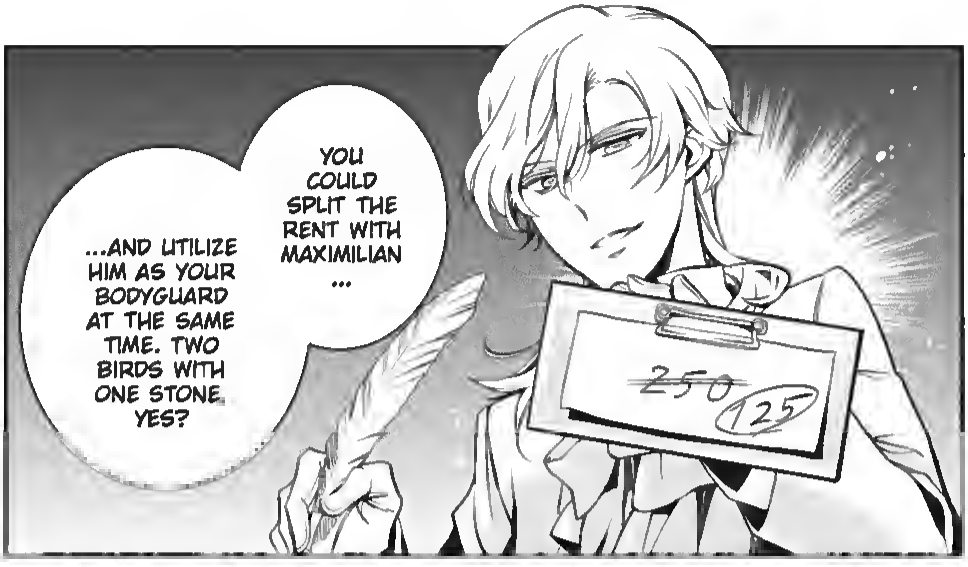
ALL RIGHT.
REALLY !?

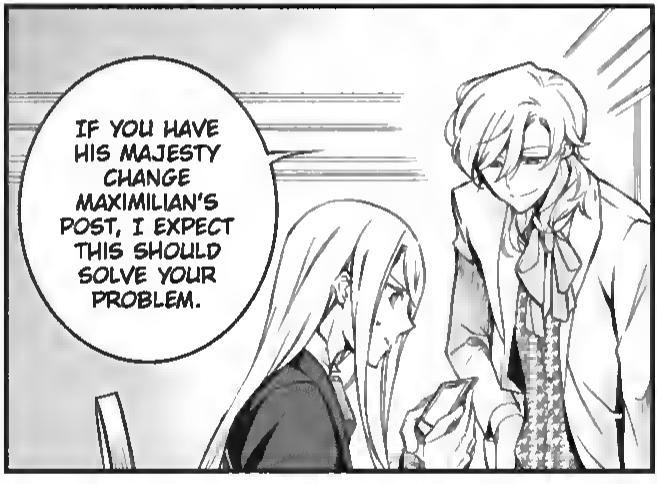
NO GOOD... THREE DAYS OF SEARCHING, AND I'M STILL NO CLOSER TO FINDING LODGING.
I GUESS THAT'S NO SURPRISE...
...
I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE AFTER ALL, DO I...?
MY ONLY OPTION IS TO GO TO HIM...!

HEH HEH!
...AND SO YOU CAME BACK TO ME?
AFTER TURNING ME DOWN IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS?
YOUR FEET MUST HAVE FELT LEADEN COMING HERE.
BUT!
HEH HEH. I JEST.
I'M GLAD I CAN BE OF SERVICE.
.....

VERY WELL.
YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY CAUTIOUS, AREN'T YOU?
I INSIST ON PAYING RENT.
HOW DOES THIS STRIKE YOU?
...SO I ALREADY SELECTED A PROPERTY THAT I THOUGHT WOULD SUIT YOUR NEEDS.
WELL. I HAD A FEELING YOU WOULD FIND YOURSELF IN A QUANDARY...
パサ
FLAP
AH. HE MIGHT BE ONTO SOMETHING...
FROM A SAFETY PERSPECTIVE, I BELIEVE IT'S THE PERFECT LOCATION.
BUT IT ISN'T TOO NOISY, AND THE STREET IS WELL-LIT AT NIGHT.
IT'S CLOSE TO THE PALACE. LOTS OF FOOT TRAFFIC.

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY FLORINS... THAT'S EVERYTHING I EARN NOW...!
!
THIS IS THE FIGURE FOR THE RENT.
.....
UH... ERRRM... HMMM.
MY COUSIN MAXIMILIAN, THE PALACE GUARD.
WON'T YOU ALLOW HIM TO LODGE WITH YOU?
IF I MAY MAKE A PROPOSAL...
SHFF
IT SO HAPPENS THAT HE IS ALSO EAGER TO LEAVE THE NEST.
HUH?


YOU COULD SPLIT THE RENT WITH MAXIMILIAN ...
...AND UTILIZE HIM AS YOUR BODYGUARD AT THE SAME TIME. TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE. YES?
250
125


IF YOU HAVE HIS MAJESTY CHANGE MAXIMILIAN'S POST, I EXPECT THIS SHOULD SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM.

I'M SURE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD GIVE HIS MAJESTY PEACE OF MIND AS WELL...

EVEN WITH THE DISCOUNT, I'LL BARELY BE ABLE TO AFFORD THIS... BUT...

.....
I'LL SPEAK TO MAXIMILIAN MYSELF.

SSK
...THANKS, COUNT ROSENBERG.
IF THIS IS ENOUGH TO PERSUADE FATHER, THEN...
250
12
IF I ADD MORE SHIFTS INTO MY PLAN, I SHOULD MANAGE... RIGHT?
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE I CAN GO TO...
I'LL BE...
... RELYING ON YOU.
SMILE
SPLENDID.
IT'S A PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.

WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE MATTER?
HIS MAJESTY IS INSIDE.
.....
BADUM
BADUM

I WILL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I AM ONLY HERE TO OBSERVE AS THE ROYAL TUTOR.
I SHALL NOT HELP YOU PERSUADE HIM.
CLING
T-TEACH!
.....
YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT.
ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO CONVEY YOUR FEELINGS WITH IT.
COME NOW, COLLECT YOUR WITS.
YOU SPENT SEVERAL DAYS PREPARING YOUR PROPOSAL, DID YOU NOT?
PUSH
...THEN I'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP...
I'VE DONE EVERYTHING I CAN. IF AFTER ALL THIS HE STILL SAYS NO...
CREEEAK

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, LICHT?
HERR ROYAL TUTOR?
L... LIS-TEN...
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU...
.....
WHAT ABOUT?
.....
FWOO... HAH... FWOO... HAH...

• To be continued in the next chapter of The Royal Tutor •

The Royal Tutor Chapter 48

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